

As a retired librarian, member of several state library committees and library user, I am writing to urge that funding for the borrowIT program be restored to the State Library budget. At a time when town library budgets are stretched to the limit in response to municipal budgets that are about to become yet more strained as state funding is cut, resource sharing of this kind is essential if libraries are to continue providing an adequate level of service to our state's residents.

While cutting this program would be disastrous in itself, doing so will result in a domino effect involving other aspects of library service and funding. To cite just one example, if circulation statistics plummet because out-of-town borrowers can no longer use other libraries, municipalities may use those lower statistics as an excuse to cut funding to their libraries.

The statement submitted by the Advisory Council on Library Planning and Development includes impressive statistics indicating how important borrowIT is to libraries' services and funding. Cutting funding for this service, which in effect means eliminating the service, would be devastating for libraries and the patrons they serve.

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